## CLAIMS

1. A method for displaying the status of a financial indicator using a geographic orientation, said financial indicator representing financial activity in a particular geographic region, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a map, said map including said geographic region; and

displaying on said geographic region of said map a visual indicator that represents the status of said financial indicator.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the status of said financial indicator includes a percentage change in the value of said financial indicator at a point in time.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the status of said financial indicator is continuously updated.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said financial indicator is an index.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said map is a world map.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said geographic region is a country included in said world map.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said map is a regional map and said geographic region is a country included in said regional map.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein said visual indicator is a first color if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in a first direction and said visual indicator is a second color if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in a second direction.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said first direction is positive and said second direction is negative.

10. The method of claim of claim 2, wherein said visual indicator is a third color if the value of said financial indicator is unchanged.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein said first color has a plurality of shades wherein each of said plurality of shades of said first color is associated with a particular percentage change in the value of said financial indicator in said first direction and said second color has a plurality of shades wherein each of said plurality of shades of said second color is associated with a particular percentage change in the value of said financial indicator in said second direction, wherein the step of displaying on said geographic region of said map a visual indicator includes the steps of:

displaying one of said plurality of shades of said first color associated with said percentage change of said financial indicator on said geographic region if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in said first direction; and

displaying one of said plurality of shades of said second color associated with said percentage change of said financial indicator on said geographic region if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in said second direction.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said map is a sector map, said sector map including a second geographic region and a second financial indicator representing financial activity in said second geographic region, said financial indicator and said second financial indicator each including a plurality of sectors that comprise said financial indicator and said second financial

indicator, respectively, each of said plurality of sectors having associated therewith a sector activity indicator, the step of displaying on said geographic region including the step of:

displaying on each of said plurality of sectors a visual indicator that represents the status of said associated sector activity indicator.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said geographic region on said sector map and said second geographic region on said sector map each have a size and said financial indicator and said second financial indicator each have a market capitalization, wherein said size of said geographic region and said size of said second geographic region is proportional to said market capitalization of said financial indicator and said second financial indicator, respectively.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

displaying economic data relating to said geographic region.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

16. The method of claim 8, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

18. A system for displaying the status of a financial indicator using a geographic orientation, said financial indicator representing financial activity in a particular geographic region, the system comprising:

a data source including the status of said financial indicator;

a mapping engine, said mapping engine having a map including said geographic region, said mapping engine receiving the status of said financial indicator from said data source, said mapping engine outputting a signal for displaying on said geographic region of said map a visual indicator that represents the status of said financial indicator.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the status of said financial indicator includes a percentage change in the value of said financial indicator at a point in time.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the status of said financial indicator is continuously updated.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein said financial indicator is an index.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein said map is a world map.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein said geographic region is a country included in said world map.

24. The system of claim 18, wherein said map is a regional map and said geographic region is a country included in said regional map.

25. The system of claim 19, wherein said visual indicator is a first color if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in a first direction and said visual indicator is a second color if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in a second direction.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein said first direction is positive and said second direction is negative.

27. The system of claim of claim 19, wherein said visual indicator is a third color if the value of said financial indicator is unchanged.

28. The system of claim 25, wherein said first color has a plurality of shades wherein each of said plurality of shades of said first color is associated with a particular percentage change in the value of said financial indicator in said first direction and said second color has a plurality of shades wherein each of said plurality of shades of said second color is associated with a

particular percentage change in the value of said financial indicator in said second direction, and wherein one of said plurality of shades of said first color associated with said percentage change of said financial indicator is displayed on said geographic region if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in said first direction and one of said plurality of shades of said second color associated with said percentage change of said financial indicator is displayed on said geographic region if said percentage change in the value of said financial indicator is in said second direction.

29. The system of claim 18, wherein said map is a sector map, said sector map including a second geographic region and a second financial indicator representing financial activity in said second geographic region, said financial indicator and said second financial indicator each including a plurality of sectors that comprise said financial indicator and said second financial indicator, respectively, each of said plurality of sectors having associated therewith a sector activity indicator, and wherein on each of said plurality of sectors is displayed a visual indicator that represents the status of said associated sector activity indicator.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein said geographic region on said sector map and said second geographic region on said sector map each have a size and said financial indicator and said second financial indicator each have a market capitalization, wherein said size of said geographic region and said size of said second geographic region is proportional to said market capitalization of said financial indicator and said second financial indicator, respectively.

31. The system of claim 18, wherein said data source includes economic information relating to said geographic region and said economic information is displayed.

32. The method of claim 18, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

33. The method of claim 25, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

34. The method of claim 28, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

35. A method for displaying the status of an indicator using a geographic orientation, said indicator representing activity in a particular geographic region, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a map, said map including said geographic region; and

displaying on said geographic region of said map a visual indicator that represents the status of said indicator.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the status of said indicator includes a percentage change in the value of said indicator at a point in time.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein said map is a world map.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein said geographic region is a country included in said world map.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein said map is a regional map and said geographic region is a country included in said regional map.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein said visual indicator is a first color if said percentage change in the value of said indicator is in a first direction and said visual indicator is a second color if said percentage change in the value of said indicator is in a second direction.

41. The method of claim of claim 36, wherein said visual indicator is a third color if the value of said indicator is unchanged.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein said first color has a plurality of shades wherein each of said plurality of shades of said first color is associated with a particular percentage change in the

value of said indicator in said first direction and said second color has a plurality of shades wherein each of said plurality of shades of said second color is associated with a particular percentage change in the value of said indicator in said second direction, wherein the step of displaying on said geographic region of said map a visual indicator includes the steps of:

displaying one of said plurality of shades of said first color associated with said percentage change of said indicator on said geographic region if said percentage change in the value of said indicator is in said first direction; and

displaying one of said plurality of shades of said second color associated with said percentage change of said indicator on said geographic region if said percentage change in the value of said indicator is in said second direction.

43. The method of claim 35, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

44. The method of claim 40, wherein said visual indicator is a number.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein said visual indicator is a number.